

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings replace the original sheet including Figs. 8–14. In addition the attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 13 and Fig. 14. Fig. 13 has been amended so that original reference character "84" has been replaced with "840" in compliance with the original specification as filed. Fig. 14 has been amended so that original reference character "16" has been replaced with "160" in compliance with the original specification as filed.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Examiner's communication dated October 11, 2006.

I. Introduction

The Drawings (Figs. 8–14) are objected to as being handwritten; Figs. 2 and 14 are objected to as not including certain reference characters; Fig. 14 is objected to as containing a reference character not mentioned in the description.

The Specification is objected as not having the claims on a separate sheet of paper.

Claims 1–32 are pending in the above application (NOTE: The Examiner refers to only claims 1 to 29 in the official communication, however, the application as filed, and the amendment filed May 24, 2004, included claims 1 to 32) Applicant has verified that 32 claims are of record through PAIR.

Claims 3–17 and 20–29 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2 and 18, 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

II. Amendments

First, applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-17 and 20-29 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 3 and 20, respectively. Claims 3 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has made minor amendments to the remaining dependent claims so that the dependencies are proper and take into account the canceling of claims 3 and 20. In view of this amendment, and the Examiner's comments, applicant submits that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance.

Concerning the drawings, applicant attaches sheets of drawings including Figs. 8-14 to replace original "handwritten" Figs. 8-14, as requested by the Examiner. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced with the attached replacement drawings.

The replacement drawings also include changes to Fig. 13 and Fig. 14. In particular, Fig. 13 has been amended so that original reference character "84" has been replaced with "840" in compliance with the original specification as filed. Fig. 14 has been amended so that original reference character "16" has been replaced with "160" in compliance with the original specification as filed. Applicant submits that the replacement drawings, plus the changes to the specification as detailed above, respond to the Examiner's objections to Fig. 2 (reference nos. "64" and "70," have been corrected to reference characters "9" and "13," respectively, in the specification to respond to this objection) and Fig. 14 (reference character "16" has been amended to "160" in the replacement Fig. 14 to respond to this objection).

In addition, applicant attaches a Substitute Specification, including a marked-up copy and clean copy. The Substitute Specification is to provide the claims on a separate sheet of paper as requested by the Examiner. In addition, the Substitute Specification includes the amendments referred to above in relation to the specification and claims, as clearly shown on the marked-up copy. Applicant submits that the Substitute Specification contains no new matter.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Organ et al. (6768921) in view of Skladnev et al. (6723049), and claims 2 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Organ et al. (6768921) in view of Skladnev et al. (6723049), and further in view of Hubelbank et al. (5197479).

As previously mentioned, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 20. According applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 18 are now allowable. Moreover, claims 2 and 19 now depend from allowable claims 1 and 18, respectively, and should also now be considered allowable.

The Examiner has already indicated that the remaining claims 4–17 and 21–29 are allowable. Applicant submits that claims 30–32 should also be considered allowable, as these are ultimately dependent on allowable independent claim 18.

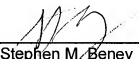
Applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any concerns with the claims as amended, applicant invites

the Examiner to call the undersigned at (416) 957-1697 to discuss the case and avoid the expense and time of issuing a further communication.

Respectfully submitted,

BERESKIN & PARR

By



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Attachments